



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

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Prescribed Fire Planned to Begin Tomorrow

On Wednesday July 5, fire crews plan to begin ignitions on the 619-acre Upper Redwood Prescribed Fire, approximately 3 miles southeast of Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. Crews will ignite the burn from the air and the ground over three to five days.

The prescribed fire is located south of the Generals Highway near the intersection with the Quail Flat Road. **Road Conditions:** The Generals Highway will remain open but temporary delays are possible, if needed, due to smoke. The Redwood Mountain Road will also remain open but with potential significant delays due to fire engines on the narrow dirt road. Please use caution while driving in the area since firefighters will be working near the roads. **Trail Conditions:** The Hart Tree Loop Trail will be closed until further notice. The Redwood Canyon and Buena Vista Trails will remain open.

Fire History of the Area

The Upper Redwood Prescribed Fire is an important project to maintain the natural role of fire in Redwood Mountain Grove, the largest sequoia grove in the parks. Some of the first research burns to learn about the relationship between sequoias and fire took place in Redwood Mountain Grove in the 1960s. Based on this research, the parks instituted a prescribed fire program nearly 40 years ago. The area of the Upper Redwood project last burned in two separate prescribed fires in 1974 and 1981.

Fire Education

People are invited to learn more about the Upper Redwood Prescribed Fire by visiting the parks' mobile learning center, called "The Fire Place." The learning center will be set up near the Grant Grove Visitor Center on Friday, July 7. This small cargo trailer is decorated with three hand painted murals and houses activities for children and adults to learn more about fire.

Reducing Exposure to Smoke

Over the next few days, the communities of Pinehurst, Eshom, and Hartland may receive some smoke at night. The parks will work closely with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to manage smoke production and reduce local impacts. People should plan outdoor activities for times and places with low smoke levels. Park residents and visitors in the area who are sensitive to smoke or have pre-existing respiratory problems should limit their outdoor activities and keep windows in buildings closed during the burn. It is helpful to drink water, eat a balanced diet, and get adequate rest. People with respiratory diseases should be diligent about following their physician's instructions. Extended smoke exposure is harmful to human health and should be avoided. When inhaled, smoke can cause symptoms similar to a cold or allergies. Most symptoms subside after the smoke is gone.

www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm

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